

MEMPHIS APPEAL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1875.

THE CONVENTION TO-DAY.

Before the struggle is the time to prepare for the struggle. The Democratic convention, called singly and alone by Democrats, opposed to any other than a Democratic candidate for mayor will be held at Assembly hall to-day for the purpose of nominating a candidate. The canvass has been most energetically prosecuted, and has not, in some respects, been wholly devoted to those heated personal asperities incident to a campaign of its character, wherein personal rivalries necessarily enter to a greater or less extent. But we believe the convention will be composed of men who will heed and utter words of warning and words of counsel. If this be so, there will be a united, harmonious convention, and a nomination which will receive the cordial, zealous and enthusiastic support, not only of every Democrat in Memphis, but of every good citizen who desires to see the city government economically administered and Memphis placed once more on the road to prosperity. To secure success in the forthcoming municipal elections harmony, unity, peace and good-will, patriotism and self-sacrifice, if need be, should characterize the actions and deliberations of the convention. Let there be no boisterousness, no wrangling for favorites and personal friends. Let system, method, dignity, decorum and true parliamentary judgment characterize its organization and its proceedings. We have a desperate battle to fight. There may be individual choices and personal preferences, but as patriots and good citizens, we should keep prominently in view the importance of uniting upon a man against whom there is no bitter and insuperable objections—whose name will be a tower of strength and secure perfect unity and harmony. Already are our foes, the Radicals, predicting turmoil and turbulence, if not a split in the convention to-day, certainly the nomination of a man they can defeat. Let the convention disappoint them and vindicate the proud fame of the Democratic party of Memphis by harmoniously bringing forward a man with armor buckled, and whose acceptance will be the bugle-blast for unity and rallying every man who would save Memphis from Radical misrule. Why fold upon the party and the people an objectionable man when there are hundreds of good citizens whose nomination would inspire enthusiasm, harmony and perfect unity? Hon. John R. Filippin, incorruptible as judge of the criminal court, he would be equally incorruptible as mayor. His nomination would secure union and harmony. And then there is J. C. Neely. Who has anything to advance against him? He has conducted his own business successfully, and if nominated and elected he would apply the same principles to public affairs and be equally as successful in the advancement of the public interest. J. C. Neely can sweep the city by two thousand majority, and would make a model mayor. There is James Elder. His purity of life, honesty and splendid business capacity would silence all opposition, save that of Radicalism. Why nominate an unpopular, odious man when we have such material as N. M. Jones? He would make a first-class mayor and a first-class incumbent of any position to which he might be elected. Nominate N. M. Jones and victory is assured, and a tax-ridden people would feel that deliverance was coming. That enterprising, energetic and public-spirited citizen, W. B. Galbreath, if nominated would have no serious opposition. He carries his large and noble heart in one hand and his plethoric purse in the other, and as mayor of Memphis he would be in perfect keeping with the spirit of the age, and all would vote to make him the custodian of the public well. Michael Magovern, str, is a man above reproach, of great dignity and firmness, and the election of such a man as mayor would be a promise of retrenchment and economy, the death-knell to all schemes for plunder. Why pass over such a man? General Cotton Greene has no blemish upon his pure name, and his nomination to-day would be a pledge of faithfulness to the traditional principles of Democracy, and his certain and easy election would give to Memphis a mayor who would make war upon dishonesty and for himself such a record for efficiency as to make him the idol of a people long cursed with official incompetency. Minor Meriwether is celebrated for his inflexible, fearless honesty. He has no superior for executive ability. He would faithfully guard the city finances, and there is no man in Memphis who could and would do more to extricate the city from her pecuniary troubles. A. T. Lacey has a host of friends. His large experience and extensive information would make him a useful mayor of Memphis at a time when both these qualifications are much needed. He has represented Missouri in the legislature, was elected State senator from Shelby county, and then speaker of the senate, in all of which positions he displayed great abilities. Mr. Lacey can be elected if nominated. So can Napoleon Hill, John Roush, John Zent, B. P. Anderson, Jesse F. Brown, S. B. Robinson, Mike Burke. The nomination of B. Lowenstein, J. R. Frank, W. S. Bruce, A. Vaccaro or G. H. Judah would secure harmony and victory. Why pass over such men as Henry J. Lynn, John W. Cochran, H. M. James, John C. Fizer, Dr. D. T. Porter and A. C. Treas-

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THE S. AND N. RAILROAD.

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well? Either of the gentlemen named above can be elected. They are objectionable; there is nothing charged against them. But there is one man whose name will be brought before the convention who cannot be elected if nominated by acclamation. We allude to John Johnson. The opposition to him is deep, general and relentless. It is an opposition so deeply ingrained that a party nomination cannot remove it. Four years ago, although the creature of a Democratic convention, he refused to submit his name to the same party convention which had made him mayor. Thereafter he offended hundreds of good Democrats, who boldly proclaimed that as Mr. Johnson repudiated a convention four years ago they will now repudiate him as unfaithful to the party that made him, and whose honors he has no right to ask or expect. There are hundreds of faithful Democrats who will not vote for John Johnson on account of what they regard as treachery to them and the party that first elected him mayor of Memphis. Two years ago, a large and enthusiastic meeting of the citizens of Memphis nominated Major J. J. Busby for mayor. He was supported by the Democratic party, by the tax-payers, and by good citizens generally. But John Johnson voted and worked for John Loege, the Radical nominee, and as a reward for his services claimed some of the spoils, and secured them. This support of the Radical nominee again offended Democrats many of the supporters of Busby, and should Johnson be nominated to-day he would meet a bitter opposition for having voted for the Radical nominee two years ago. Many of the best citizens of Memphis honestly believe that John Johnson is unfit for mayor; that he prostituted the office for selfish, corrupt purposes by speculating in city bonds, and much as they love Democracy, and strong as has been their fealty to party organization, they will not support him. Others believe that whatever strength Mr. Johnson has recently developed has been worked up through the strategy of Loege and his friends, who are anxious for his nomination, knowing that on account of his unpopularity he can be easily defeated. It would be folly, madness, to nominate a man with such a record. We appeal to every right-minded delegate in the convention to-day to put aside every personal consideration, and resist every influence that may have been or may still be brought to bear upon him in favor of such an aspirant as John Johnson, or in favor of any man not likely to appeal to the support of Democrats and honest men. The APPEAL has no candidate for mayor. It is only interested in the success of honest men and in the defeat of every Radical combination that menaces Memphis with ruin and bankruptcy. This is the logical outcome of confiding the municipal trust to a man nominated and elected by the influence of the classes by whom John Loege is surrounded, and by whom he is elected, and proposes to be elected again. The only way in which this dangerous combination can be defeated is through the Democratic party—through a popular nomination made by it—for there is no other responsible political organization that will undertake the work. And there is only one way in which the Democratic party can defeat it, and that is by the nomination of a man to-day whom the tax-payers and the Democracy can trust implicitly from the moment his name is announced, and who will unite and bring out the entire respectable vote of the city. This is the work before the convention to-day, and every delegate should hold himself personally responsible for the result. The convention owes it to itself, to the Democratic party and to the people of Memphis to nominate a first-class man—a man of commanding character and ability; a man whose nomination from the start would carry weight with it, a man of irreproachable record, and one who would go before the people with clean hands and of whom the party would feel proud before and after his election. Such a candidate can be procured, and it will be the fault of the convention if it fails to-day to nominate a man of fitness, CAPACITY and AVAILABILITY.

THE S. AND N. RAILROAD.

The committee appointed by the meeting of the citizens of commerce yesterday, to solicit subscriptions of faithfulness to the traditional principles of Democracy, and his certain and easy election would give to Memphis a mayor who would make war upon dishonesty and for himself such a record for efficiency as to make him the idol of a people long cursed with official incompetency. Minor Meriwether is celebrated for his inflexible, fearless honesty. He has no superior for executive ability. He would faithfully guard the city finances, and there is no man in Memphis who could and would do more to extricate the city from her pecuniary troubles. A. T. Lacey has a host of friends. His large experience and extensive information would make him a useful mayor of Memphis at a time when both these qualifications are much needed. He has represented Missouri in the legislature, was elected State senator from Shelby county, and then speaker of the senate, in all of which positions he displayed great abilities. Mr. Lacey can be elected if nominated. So can Napoleon Hill, John Roush, John Zent, B. P. Anderson, Jesse F. Brown, S. B. Robinson, Mike Burke. The nomination of B. Lowenstein, J. R. Frank, W. S. Bruce, A. Vaccaro or G. H. Judah would secure harmony and victory. Why pass over such men as Henry J. Lynn, John W. Cochran, H. M. James, John C. Fizer, Dr. D. T. Porter and A. C. Treas-